



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH **75th RANGER REGIMENT**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 (910) 432-6005

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Barraza

Died March 18, 2006

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Barraza, 24, was a squad leader assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash. He died of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations in western Iraq on March 18, 2006.

After graduating from Shafter High School in Shafter, Calif., Barraza volunteered for military service and entered the Army Aug. 5, 1999. He completed One Station Unit Training, airborne school and Ranger Indoctrination Training at Fort Benning, Ga.

Assigned to 2nd Ranger Bn. in March 2000, Barraza served in every position of a Ranger rifle squad.

Barraza was a six-time veteran of the Global War on Terrorism, deploying three times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, and three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal with a two knot rope, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Korean Parachutist Wings, Jordanian Parachutist Wings, and Ranger Tab.

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

Barraza is survived by his parents, Francisco and Nina Barraza, and two sisters, Amanda and Rachel, of Shafter, Calif., and another sister, Jamie Barraza, and a brother, Frankie Barraza, of Sunnyside, Wash. He is also survived by his fiancé, Maghan K. Harrington, and her daughter, Kayla, of Lacey, Wash.

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high "esprit de corps" of my Ranger Regiment... - FIRST STANZA OF THE RANGER CREED

- RANGERS LEAD THE WAY! -